



Setting Standards for Higher Education

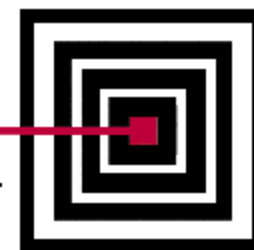
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THE U.S. Department of
EDUCATION

Session #51



POSTSECONDARY
ELECTRONIC STANDARDS COUNCIL



Mission

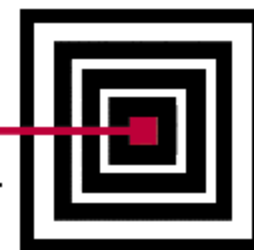
PESC leads the higher education community in leveraging the value of electronic standards for data exchange.

- We support the use of existing electronic standards set through official standards-setting bodies as well as open industry collaboration.
- We provide guidance to identify these standards.
- We set new industry standards where there are no national or international bodies to do so.
- We aggressively work with schools, higher education associations, government agencies, and software and service providers to adopt these standards.
- We actively encourage the creation and maintenance of an infrastructure for electronic exchange of education-related data.

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What kind of standards?

- Data definitions
- Code sets
- Data formats
- Implementations
- Transmission protocols
- Security protocols



For what kind of exchanges?

- School-centric
- With many trading partners
- In many formats
 - proprietary
 - ad hoc
 - national/international
- Frequent rather than rare
- Administrative data in education arena



Value of Standards for Student Aid?

- Process, time, & data efficiencies
- Streamlined processes
- Ability to plug-n-play
- Cost-savings



PESC 1997-2001

- Diverse membership from across the education enterprise
- Focus
 - Representation in standards-setting bodies
 - Implementation support
 - Promotion of standards
 - Information gathering and sharing
 - Standards setting for education industry



PESC Activity 1997-2001

Workgroups

- Student identifiers
- Prospect information
- TRA reporting
- Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)
- Enrollment reporting
- Institutional identifiers
- Extensible Markup Language (XML)



XML Forum for Education

- Established in August 2000
- Open to PESC membership
- Focus on
 - Education
 - Data dictionary
 - Technical Specification
 - Schema development and validation



Collaborating To Establish **XML** Standards
For The Higher Education Industry



XML Forum and the Common Record

- Collaboration during development
- Technical Specification adhered to
- Common Record data dictionary foundation of XML Forum's dictionary
- Common Record schema reviewed by the XML Forum
- Common Record schema can be extended to incorporate FFEL data requirements



XML Forum and the Future

XML Forum Steering Committee

- Ed Hauser, Chairman, SCT
- Steve Hawald, SFA OCIO
- Bob King, Citibank
- Paul Ness, Sallie Mae
- Candy Pfeiffer, NASLA
- Michael Sessa, Ex-Officio



XML Forum and the Future

- Goals and objectives to be identified
- Continuation of past work
- Development of new schemas
- Validation of schemas developed outside the Forum
- Monitoring of international XML standards arena



Standards Setting and Student Financial Assistance

- Need for a stakeholder forum
- Need for a process for consensus standards
- Need for a fair standards maintenance process
- XML Forum can serve as the trusted third party to promote, develop, and maintain standards for student financial assistance



How to get involved

- Join PESC and the XML Forum
(membership info available at www.StandardsCouncil.org)
- School membership \$500 a year
- Join individually or use an umbrella organization to participate
- Betsy Bainbridge 202-293-7383
- Michael Sessa 202-319-8452

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Who is NCHELP?

- Founded in 1967
- A Nationwide network of:
 - Guarantors
 - Secondary markets
 - Schools
 - Lenders
 - Servicers
 - Collection Agencies
 - Software Vendors



Who is NCHELP?

- NCHELP members promote student access and choice for postsecondary education and training
- NCHELP represents its members on public policy and regulatory issues within the legislative and executive branches of the federal government



The Focus of NCHELP

- Information
- Involvement
- Advocacy
- Education



NCHERP Committees

- The foundation of NCHERP's public policy development activities
 - Debt Management
 - Program Operations
 - Program Regulations
 - Legal Affairs
 - Membership Education and Training
 - Electronic Standards



NCHERP and Standards: The Electronic Standards Committee

- Combined Efforts
 - CommonLine
 - Common Account Maintenance (CAM)
 - Common Claim Initiative (CCI)
- School Advisory Group
- Electronic Standards Steering Committee



NCHELP and Standards: CommonLine

- Initial Implementation in 1995
- Release 5 scheduled for implementation in April 2002
- XML Version was the basis for the Common Record



NCHERP and Standards: Common Account Maintenance

- Development began with AMF
- Published in 1999
- Implementation – NOW!



NCHERP and Standards: The Common Claim Initiative

- Finalized standards in 2001
- Implementation – NOW!



NCHELP and Standards: The Electronic Standards Committee School Advisory Group

- Membership
 - Public and private institutions
 - 2 year, 4 year and proprietary programs
 - Graduate and undergraduate
- Loan Delivery Systems
 - Homegrown
 - 3rd Party Developed



Getting Involved!

- Visit www.nchelp.org for more information
- Join the ESC
- Join the School Advisory Group
- Contact Tim Cameron at:
 - 202-822-2106
 - tcameron@nchelp.org



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